

**Janzen, Heather**

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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Julia Adamson - Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans - CK 1860-1  
**Attachments:** City Council May 29.pdf

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**From:** Web NoReply <[web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2024 2:48 PM  
**To:** City Council <[City.Council@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Julia Adamson - Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans - CK 1860-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [friendsafforestation@gmail.com](mailto:friendsafforestation@gmail.com) ---

Submitted on Monday, May 27, 2024 - 14:47

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

**I have read and understand the above statements.:** Yes

**I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.:** No

**I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.:** No

**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2024

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** She/her/hers

**First Name:** Julia

**Last Name:** Adamson

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** [REDACTED]

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [friendsafforestation@gmail.com](mailto:friendsafforestation@gmail.com)

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Appleby Court

**Ward:** Ward 2

**Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable):** Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas Inc.

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** City Council May 29 2024

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 8.1.2 Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans [CC2023-0406]

**Comments:**

As attached

**Attachments:**

- [City Council May 29.pdf](#) 124.08 KB

**Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?:** No



**Friends of the Saskatoon  
Afforestation Areas Inc.**  
Registered Charity #777143876 RR 0001  
**Come To Nature Come To life**  
<http://friendsareas.ca/>

Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas

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8.1.2

*Small Swale and Richard St Barbe Baker Afforestation Area – Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans [CC2023-0406]*

Dear His Worship Charlie Clark, Members of City Council

On behalf of the Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas, we are writing to thank Angela Spence, Chair of the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee and SEAC members for their letter to City Council today. We thank Jessie Best, Project Manager and the team at sustainability for the work done on the Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans.

**Collaboration:** We appreciate the point made by SEAC regarding collaboration and feel that additionally collaboration with the RM of Corman Park and the Saskatoon North Partnership for Growth (P4G) should be considered as the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area is also located near the municipal boundary between the City and Corman Park and future development of the P4G Planning District could impact the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area as well.

**National Urban Park:**

**We are greatly encouraged that** the Small Swale and the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area are part of the Natural Area Management and pilot management projects and are being considered to be part of the proposed National Urban Park. We propose that George Genereux Urban Regional Park should also be included in the application for the National Urban Park designation as this would further enhance conservation of these areas. George Genereux Urban Regional Park has the lower anthropogenic footprint to date of the swales and afforestation areas, and has been a habitat for several wild species that have been commonly sighted over the winter months.

**Pesticides i.e. Avitrol:** Jan Shadick from Living Sy Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. has previously come before council and the City has agreed to not use Avitrol on City property. This is greatly appreciated as a first step. However, the Wildlife Rescue Society of Saskatchewan (WRSOS) is concerned that Avitrol ingestion by pigeons affects the greater food web and therefore afforestation area biodiversity is impacted negatively. Implementing a city wide bylaw would be advantageous during this era of the sixth silent mass extinction of wildlife. Jan Shadick advises that Ovocontrol is a viable option that reduces flock size via attrition not poisoning and is safe for predators. (See post script)

**Biodiversity and wetlands / shorelines protection** Thank you to SEAC for their recommendation of protections of sensitive shoreline nesting habitats, and further monitoring of protections for biodiversity.(See post script)

**Maps, boundaries and relevant land ownerships.** As part of the Natural Area Management and Conceptual Master Plans we draw attention to Part SE 23-36-6 W3 unnamed during the 1978 city council meeting and the ratification of 1979 to name Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area. Could this area Part SE 23-36-6 W3 east of the SW OLRA receive a legal name designation? The current land base designated as Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area is considered to be 132 ha (326 acres) in size, and the unnamed portion is 23 ha (56 acres)

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your positive response and continued collaboration on this important issue.

Sincerely

Julia Adamson

Friends of the Saskatoon Afforestation Areas

**Post script an excerpt from our letter to SEAC:**

During our review of the plans, we noted an important aspect that was not previously mentioned in our correspondence with the Saskatoon Standing Policy Committee on Environment Utilities and Corporate Services (SPC on EUCs). Specifically, we are concerned about the issue of dogs accessing the shorelines on both the east and west edges of the wetlands in the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area

Recently, a pathway was carved through the cattails on the western side, providing access to the muddy and sensitive shoreline edges. This poses a significant risk to the habitat and species at risk present in the area, particularly during mating season. It is essential to protect these species in compliance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

To address this concern, we propose the inclusion of educational signage in the master plan. These signs would inform park users about the presence of waterfowl and shoreline wading bird species at risk and emphasize the importance of protecting their habitat. The signage would need to designate certain areas such as the larger wetlands as unsuitable for dogs based on ecological assessments. Additionally, the signage could provide guidance on appropriate areas in the City of Saskatoon for dogs to cool off in the water.

We have observed the successful implementation of both formal permanent interpretive signs and temporary educational signage combined with temporary barriers in other park spaces. We believe that similar signage in the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area would effectively raise awareness among park users and contribute to the conservation efforts in the area.

We kindly request that the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee consider adding this educational component to the master plan for the Small Swale and Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area. We believe that such measures will not only protect the sensitive ecosystem but also enhance the overall visitor experience.

Environmental education and raising awareness fit perfectly with the greater legacy of this area named after, arguably, the first Global Conservationist, Richard St. Barbe Baker. His approach has informed the stewardship practices of our organization, many of the users of this greenspace and the philosophy of the pilot management plan being fine-tuned now.

This next issue is one that we have reported to the Meewasin, Renny Grilz Resource Management Officer and to the City of Saskatoon YXE Green Infrastructure Strategy, Jessie Best Project Manager which we learned about during the recent City Nature Challenge.

Recently, the Wildlife Rescue Society of Saskatchewan (WR SOS) reported on two separate occasions witnessing and monitoring the majestic Great Horned Owl giving birth to groups of 3 and 4 fledglings. WR SOS mentioned their elation at seeing the baby birds, but unfortunately, the fledglings were not faring well. Upon consulting a veterinarian, it was determined that the owl fledglings were likely fed poisoned pigeons. We appreciate that the City of Saskatoon has taken steps, such as banning the use of poisoned corn on city property in 2022, according to Jan Shadick, Executive Director of Living Sky Wildlife Rehabilitation. However, we urge SEAC to advocate for an immediate bylaw covering the entire city, including private property, to ban neurotoxin poisoning for the conservation and protection of our rapidly diminishing wildlife species. With the Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area spanning 326 acres and serving as a habitat for numerous bird species, we believe it has the capacity to provide protection. Therefore, we urge you to implement a ban on neurotoxin poisoning across Saskatoon.

## Bibliography

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/dead-pigeons-city-saskatoon-1.5122806>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/wildlife-rehabilitation-centre-asking-ban-neurotoxin-pigeons-1.6053527>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/5246696/saskatoon-toxic-bird-control-substance/>

<https://www.pigeonpatrol.ca/city-to-ban-toxins-that-poison-saskatoon-pigeons/>

Two years ago, the City of Saskatoon banned the use of poisoned corn according to Shadick, but only on city property.

<https://livingskywildliferehabilitation.org/advocacy-project-beavers-in-saskatoon/pigeons-and-poison-in-saskatoon/>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7929809/wildlife-rehabilitation-city-ban-toxins-saskatoon-pigeons/> v”

<https://thebull.ca/2021/06/14/a-call-to-ban-bird-poisoning/>

<https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/wildlife-rehab-centre-wants-ban-on-pigeon-control-products>